

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY AND PUBLIC SAFETY
BROOKE PINTO, CHAIR

**NOTICE OF A SERIES OF PUBLIC ROUNDTABLES ON
GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND REDUCTION INITIATIVES IN THE
DISTRICT**

In order to accommodate different schedules and preferences, the Committee will provide multiple opportunities to participate:

Roundtable 1: Public witnesses (virtual)

Friday, March 3, 2023, at 11:00 AM

Watch the livestream at:

Councilmember Pinto's YouTube Page (www.youtube.com/@cmbrookepinto)

Roundtable 2: Public witnesses (in-person)

Saturday, March 4, 2023, at 11:00 AM

Anacostia Neighborhood Library

1800 Good Hope Road, SE, Washington, D.C. 20020

Watch the livestream at:

Councilmember Pinto's YouTube Page (www.youtube.com/@cmbrookepinto)

Roundtable 3: Government witnesses (in-person)

Monday, March 6, 2023, at 11:00 AM

Room 500, John A. Wilson Building

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

Watch the livestream at:

Councilmember Pinto's YouTube Page (www.youtube.com/@cmbrookepinto)

DC Council Website (dccouncil.gov)

Council Channel 13 (Cable Television Providers)

Office of Cable Television Website (entertainment.dc.gov)

Sign up to testify here: <https://forms.gle/B6vJ9a1d4uFzVGLm7>

Councilmember Brooke Pinto, Chairwoman of the Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety, will be holding a series of public roundtables on issues related to gun violence and gun violence prevention in the District. The roundtables will begin with a virtual session on Friday, March 3, at 11:00 AM at which public witnesses are invited to testify. A second, in-person public forum will

be held on Saturday, March 4, at 11:00 AM at the Anacostia Neighborhood Library, 1800 Good Hope Road, SE. Last, a third roundtable, at which government witnesses will be invited to testify, will be held on Monday, March 6, at 11:00 AM in Room 500 of the John A. Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. Each roundtable will be broadcast live at www.youtube.com/@cmbrookepinto and, for the March 6th roundtable, on the DC Council Website, Council Channel 13, and at entertainment.dc.gov.

Gun violence is the largest crisis facing the District right now. Since January 2020, there have been more than 530 homicides committed with a gun in the District; that represents a more than 50% increase over the preceding three years, from 2017 through 2019, when the District saw approximately 340 homicides committed with a firearm. Overall, the number of violent crimes involving a firearm increased by more than one third over the same time period.

Needless to say, this state of affairs is unacceptable. Far too many District residents have been directly or indirectly affected by gun violence, and many report feeling unsafe in their communities. For the District to continue to be a vibrant, welcoming, and inclusive city, all of us—including the Council, prosecutors, police, and other executive agency staff—must take immediate and meaningful action to reverse these trends and reduce gun violence throughout the District.

Fortunately, we have no shortage of resources available to address this problem. The Council and the Executive have worked together to stand up and support a range of agencies, programs, and services aimed at reducing violent crime in the District, and gun violence in particular. That government work is led by:

- The Office of the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice, which oversees and coordinates the efforts of the various violent crime prevention and reduction initiatives;
- The Metropolitan Police Department, which partners with public safety cluster agencies and other District agencies and service providers on gun violence prevention efforts, including crime diversion programs and to address mental and behavioral health issues;
- The Office of Gun Violence Prevention within the Office of the City Administrator, which administers the District's Building Blocks gun violence prevention strategy;
- The Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, which works directly with at-risk individuals and in neighborhoods with high levels of crime to move forward crime diversion efforts and otherwise reduce violence;
- The Office of the Attorney General, which runs Cure the Streets (a violence interruption program) and has built up a restorative justice program aimed at bringing offenders and victims together to reduce recidivism and help victims heal; and
- The Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants, which provides grant funding to community organizations that provide violence intervention services, re-entry services, and support services for victims of crime.

Simply having these programs, however, is not enough. These programs must work in concert and have the necessary funding, staffing, legislative authority, and support from District leadership to effectively carry out their mandates. These roundtables will focus on the effectiveness of these programs, including exploring which aspects of our violence interruption initiatives have been most successful and which areas can be improved; how we can improve coordination between the

range of agencies and programs involved in these efforts; how we can stem the flow of illegal weapons into the District; and how we can rebuild trust between communities and police to simultaneously improve public safety and equity in the justice system. The Committee will also seek testimony on successful gun violence reduction efforts implemented in other jurisdictions that could be replicated in the District.

The Committee invites the public to testify or to submit written testimony, which will be made a part of the official record. Anyone wishing to testify at the public roundtables on Friday or Saturday should submit a request to testify via the form in the link below before by 11:00 am on Thursday, March 2nd.

Sign up here:

<https://forms.gle/B6vJ9a1d4uFzVGLm7>

Contact the Committee: Residents may also sign up to testify by contacting Ms. Aukima Benjamin, Committee Manager for the Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety, at (202) 724-7808 or via e-mail at judiciary@dccouncil.gov. Please note your name, email address or phone number, and the date of the roundtable you wish to testify at in your outreach to the Committee. Witnesses will receive information on how to join the roundtables at that time.

Language Interpretation Services: Witnesses who anticipate needing language interpretation, or requiring sign language interpretation, are requested to inform the Committee of the need as soon as possible but no later than five business days before the first roundtable, which is Friday, February 24, 2023. We will make every effort to fulfill timely requests; however, requests received less than five business days before the roundtable may not be fulfilled and alternatives may be offered.

Written & Voicemail Testimony: If you are unable to testify at the public roundtables, written statements are encouraged and will be made a part of the official record; testimony may be submitted to judiciary@dccouncil.gov. Members of the public may also leave voicemail testimony for the Committee by calling (202) 630-7585; the testimony will be transcribed and made part of the official record. Members of the public leaving voicemail testimony should speak slowly and clearly, state their full name and the organization they represent, if any, and note the bill, hearing, or agency that they are submitting testimony on behalf of. Members of the public are asked to not provide an e-mail, phone number, or other personal contact information in voicemail testimony.

The record will close two weeks after the final roundtable, at the end of the business day on March 20, 2023.